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IDEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

The vigilance campaign still gets heavy play on the home service, and is exploited indirectly in a variety of contexts ranging from agricultural shortcomings to embezzlement of state funds and immorality in private life. School teachers are enjoined to imbue their young students with a sense of "watchfulness," Komsomols and nonpartisan youths are urged to read available publications on "how to recognize the enemy within" and Party organizations throughout the country are advised to make the screening of applicants for membership more thorough than has been the case heretofore. Political vigilance, like charity, begins at home, that is within the ranks of the Communist Party, according to ZARYA VOSTOKA of 3 February. The Party is the most coveted organization in the Soviet structure; spies and diversionists "of every stripe" (vsekh mastei) would like to worm their way in for "espionage and sedition" purposes. The superficial and perfunctory manner in which new members are admitted to the Party, says the editorial, "force us to make serious conclusions" (zastavlyayut nas delat seryoznie vyvody), and one is that not a single person anywhere in Tbilisi or elsewhere in the Republic is to be admitted to the Party without an exhaustive preliminary investigation:

It must be remembered and never forgotten that political vigilance is first and foremost designed to preserve the purity of the ranks of the Communist Party.

In a double page PRAVDA article on revolutionary vigilance broadcast on 6 February, Kozev declares that the "recently unmasked disgusting group of corrupt Jewish bourgeois-nationalists" provides additional proof, if any were needed, that intensified political vigilance must become second nature with every citizen of the Soviet Union. He goes on to list the activities of Gurevich, Taratuta, Sas and Romanov who, until their recent arrest, had managed to roam the country at will and engage in a variety of anti-State activities. Involved also is the chairman of the Moscow Oblast Industrial Leather Trust (Mosoblkozhpromsoyuz), A. R. Malkis, who is said to have helped the spy Romanov obtain a responsible job in Moscow Oblast.

Reminding the Soviet people that there can be no two views on the current international situation, Kozev admits that different opinions on the subject actually have been voiced by "ill-starred politicians" (gore-teoretiki), "dogmatists and scholastics" (dogmatiki i nachetchiki). Some of them "even went so far as to say" (dogovorilis dazhe do togo) that the USSR was no longer threatened by imperialism thereby implying that a relaxation of vigilance was in order. Such "reasoning" (rassuzhdenie) is said to be anti-Marxian and harmful since it betrays an underestimation of the potential danger residing in the politically-unstable elements of Soviet society and the enemies' capacity of exploiting it:

It would be wrong to believe that with the liquidation of the exploiter classes in the USSR international capital lost the opportunity of recruiting its agents within our country ... fragments of the broken exploiter classes still exist here and there; so do the disguised followers of the routed anti-Soviet groups--Mensheviks, Social Revolutionaries, Trotskyites, Bukharinites and bourgeois-nationalists.

Russian text:

Oshibochno bylo by dumat, chto s likvidatsiey ekspluatatorskikh klassov v USSR mezhdunarodniy kapital poteryal vsyakuyu vozmozhnost verbovat svoyu agenturu vnutri nashei strany ... oskolki

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razbitykh ekspluatatorskikh klassov kogde sokhranilis
do sikh por; sokhranilis i zamaskirovannye posledyshi
razgromlennyykh antisovetskikh grupp--menshevikov,
eserov, trotskistov, bukharentsev, burzhuznykh
natsionalistov.

Referring to the class struggle (klassovaya borba), Kozev again implies that a certain section of Soviet opinion held that since class warfare was over in the Soviet Union it need no longer claim the concentrated attention of Party theoreticians. This contention is countered by the assertion that the class struggle is a permanent feature of international and Soviet life and cannot therefore be ignored. For regardless of the forms it assumes--civil war, intervention, blockade or border incidents "engineered by the Anglo-American intelligence"--

the class struggle has been, is and will remain a struggle between Socialism and capitalism on an international scale.

Russian text:

Klassovaya borba byla, est i budet borboy bezhdu
sotsializmom i kapitalizmom v mezhdunarodnom
mashtabe.

In other words, says Kozev quoting Stalin, if one end of the class struggle is operative within the framework of the USSR the other end extends into the bourgeois states that surround us.

A broadcast from Dnepropetrovsk (4 February) quotes a ZARYA editorial as saying that there is no difference between the common variety of "thieves of Socialist property" and political subversives: both are "a godsend to the enemy" (nakhodka dlya vraga). To what length political carelessness can go is cited in the case of the Sinelnikovsky Rayon Party Committee which approved a certain Rudenko for the post of collective farm chairman without realizing that he had been "wanted for investigation" by the same Committee for a long period of time in connection with his questionable behavior. Many swindlers and criminals are still at large, according to the paper, because their friends holding influential positions in the oblast trade union and other organizations "rescue and protect them" by providing suitable jobs for them. G. Alexandrov, State Counsellor for the Justice Department (gosudarstvennyy sovetnik Yustitsii), writing in LITERARY GAZETTE on 3 February also identifies the swindlers and thieves with such political criminals as spies and diversionists since both of them are "just what the enemy is looking for." Lack of Party vigilance, he says, has made it possible for three Soviet citizens to dupe Soviet officials from the Kirghiz SSR to the Crimea and abscond with large amounts of money by using different names and false reference documents. It is also revealed that "a group of squanderers" (gruppa raskhititelei) had been operating for a long time in Bashkir ASSR. The political aspect of their operations, Alexandrov intimates, may be deduced from the fact that one of the group's leaders was a former big-time cattle dealer (krupniy skotopromyshlennik) and the other a 'white guardist' (belogvardeyets).*

*As revealed in the above-quoted article, the operations of the Soviet version of "confidence men" are not without certain amusing features. The story is told of a criminal "K" who upon arrival in any city would telephone the head of a local enterprise representing himself as a visiting high official from the "periphery" and asking for the employment of a lesser official allegedly accompanying him. He would then show up at the appointed time as the mentioned "lesser official," and, with the excellent "telephone reference" (telefonnaya rekomendatsiya) that preceded him, would have no trouble getting the desired job.

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The basic functions (osnovnie funktsii) of the Soviet state--economic and cultural-educational--have been still further expanded and strengthened in the post-war years, according to an IZVESTIA editorial of 4 February. As elaborated at the 19th Party Congress, this expansion presupposes more attention to the State structure and stricter discipline within the government machinery. It also means, the paper continues, that the Soviet people cannot afford to relax their political vigilance under any circumstances since the "carriers of bourgeois views and morals" (nositeli burzhuaizmskikh vzgliyadov i burzhuaizmskoy morali) are still among us. The present situation calls for the improvement and perfection of every link (vsekh zvenyev) in the chain of State machinery, including the armed forces, and the security organs. That thieves, rascals and people alien to the Soviet system had been appointed to "materially responsible" jobs was disclosed by SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS on 5 February. The paper does not mention whether or not such undesirables have already been weeded out but admits that they have already "inflicted great damage" (uchinili ogromniy vred) to the Socialist economy. The Kurakovka mine of the Krasnoarmeyskiy Coal Trust is said to be one of the casualties but no details are offered. "We must constantly bear in mind" that as long as capitalist encirclement exists the Soviet Union will be the hunting ground for foreign spies, terrorists, saboteurs and diversionists.

Lagging silk production may not in itself be of any political significance but, as indicated in a summarized ZARYA VOSTOKA editorial broadcast from Tbilisi on 6 February, political vigilance is one of the suggested cures for it. Averring that the backwardness of Georgian silk production is "the direct result of the liberalism" toward violations of the State plans manifested by Party and Soviet officials, the paper quotes a reference to the subject made by Georgia Party leader Mgeladze:

Political vigilance must be raised to a higher level, carelessness and inattentiveness must be liquidated. In this way the backward sections of the national economy will be raised to the requisite level.

KRASNOYE ZNAMYA (6 February) warns against the popular pastime of "becoming intoxicated with success" for which there is no justification since the enemies' intrigues and anti-Soviet machinations tend to intensify in proportion to "our forward movement." Too many officials are inclined to forget that we are still surrounded by hostile countries: "They forget that capitalist surrounding is not an empty phrase but a real and unpleasant phenomenon" (zabyvayut pro to, shcho kapitalistychne otsochenya ne pusta fraza, a realne i nepriemne yavlyashche). An earlier broadcast from Stanislav (3 February) says there is no point in trying to define the difference between political and other offenses against the State since they all come under the same category and their common purpose is to undermine the country's economic foundation: "the thief who steals public property ... is also a spy and a traitor" (zlodiy shcho rozkradaye narodne dobro ... ye toyzhe shpigun i zradnyk).

Alien Influence on Youth: SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS (4 February) is concerned about the serious shortcomings and "low ideological level" of studies in the Komsomol education network. With the "most mortal" enemies of the Soviet people trying to infiltrate and undermine every phase of our life, the paper says, it is of particular importance to safeguard the Soviet youths from the wicked influences of reactionary bourgeois ideology. We must use "all forms and means" of propaganda activity and mass-political work to educate in the young Soviet people "a deep hatred toward the criminal American imperialism" and expose the attempts of its agents, the bourgeois nationalists of all species who are still to be found among us. Hard study and tight discipline within Komsomol ranks are suggested as effective methods of keeping the young Communists politically vigilant and alert to the enemies' attempts to deprave the Soviet youths. Rigid discipline among the

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young Communists is also the object of a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA discussion of 7 February. The Komsomols cannot afford to "forget for a single moment" that the remnants of the exploiting classes and "all sorts of scum" (vssyakoye okhvostye) in our country are trying to make use of our unstable elements for their nefarious aims. It is therefore the sacred duty of a Komsomol (svyatoy dolg komsomoltsa) always "to be vigilant, to stop all idle gaping, boasting and chatter." Pursuing the vigilance theme on the next day, the same paper urges every young citizen of the USSR, Communist and nonpartisan, to read all available literature dealing with foreign intelligence and espionage so that he may learn to "recognize the enemy and his subversive methods." Highly recommended in this connection is a recently-published book by V. Minayev, "The Secret Weapon of the Doomed" (Taynoye Oruzhie Obrechnenitkh), referred to later in this report, which "exposes" American hostile activities against the USSR in the past several decades. "It is necessary to read it. It is absolutely essential for each one of us to do so!"

The items quoted below are typical of the rest of the available material on the current vigilance campaign transmitted centrally and locally:

Smolensk, 4 February--the U.S. Government has allocated 100 million dollars for subversive, terrorist and espionage work against our country The revelation of Party and State secrets is a crime against the Party and is incompatible with its membership (RABOCHIY PUT editorial);

Moscow, 6 February--Anybody who indulges in such views in private life as drunkenness, grabbing and flippant passions cannot be a reliable fighter ... all this is used by the enemies to demoralize the Komsomol and thus deprave them politically ... It is time to put an end to the harmful, fallacious view that daily life is a private affair (KOMSMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial);

Kurgan, 8 February--It is imperative to educate the Soviet people in the spirit of loyalty ... and to teach them to oppose any insidious tricks of foreign intelligence and to heighten the preparedness of the Soviet people to defend the interests and honor of our Socialist fatherland (KRASNY KURGAN editorial);

Minsk, 5 February--Another fault of propaganda work is that lectures do not assume a militant character and do not expose bourgeois ideology, and in particular that of United States imperialism (ZVYAZDA editorial).

Know Thy Enemy: In a lengthy review of Minayev's book "The Secret Weapon of the Doomed" published in IZVESTIA on 8 February and quoted by the Moscow radio on the same day, Petrov makes the point that to know one's enemy one must study his underhand methods of operation. Minayev's book is therefore invaluable from that point of view: it "reveals the cruel methods" (raskryvayet kovarnie metody) employed by the imperialists intelligence services. American subversive activities against the USSR, according to the book, pre-date the Second World War by a number of years when Trotskyites, Bukharinites and Zinovyevites had been employed to undermine the foundation of the young Soviet Republic. Such activities are said to have become intensified during the last war with the object of "establishing secret contact with the German-fascist intelligence and the Gestapo behind the back of the Soviet Union" (v ustanovlenii za spinoy Sovetskago Soyuzu neglasnogo kontakta s nemetsko-fashistskoy razvedkoy i Gestapo). Implicit also in Minayev's book, as quoted in Petrov's review, is the attempt to associate American wartime help to the USSR (presumably lend-lease) with subversive activities. The U.S., it is stated, had shipped to the Soviet Union 235,000 packages of carrot, salad, pea and other vegetable seeds--all of them labeled "to the brave people of the USSR," but

in addition to the vegetable seeds they all contained also seeds of poisonous weeds which are harmful to human beings and animals.

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Russian text:

vnutri kazhdogo iz nikh naryadu s semenami
ovoshchei soderzhalis semena yadovitykh i
vrednykh dlya cheloveka i zhivotnykh sornyakov.

The expansion of the American intelligence in the post-war years has been particularly rapid, Minayev tells his readers, and it now comprises "over 100 thousand employees and agents" (svyazhe sta tysyach sotrudnikov i agentov). Spies and diversionists are said to be trained "in most of the American universities" (v bolshinstve amerikanskikh universitetov) including numerous specialized schools. Similar cadres are being trained, under American sponsorship, in Western Germany and Austria, Yugoslavia and Turkey. Indeed there is hardly any sphere of human activity, including the foreign embassies in Moscow, according to Minayev, that has not been affected by the insidious machinations of U.S. intelligence. Even such organizations as UNESCO and the International Children's Emergency Fund are "utilized for the purposes" (ispolzuyutsya v tselyakh) of American espionage. Referring to the sources of aid at the disposal of the American intelligence service, Minayev declares that

the most active aid to American intelligence is
offered by the Vatican and the bourgeois-
nationalist Zionist organizations.

Russian text:

Samoye aktivnoye posobnichestvo amerikanskoy
razvedke okazyvayut Vatikan, burzhuzno-
natsionalisticheskie sionistские organizatsii.

Of some significance is the mild criticism of the above-discussed book contained in Velodin's TRUD review of it broadcast on 11 February. Discussing Minayev's work in familiarly flattering terms, he remarks that it is not without certain important omissions. One of them is that "there is practically nothing said in it" about the Zionist organization "Joint" which "plays an extremely important part" (igrayet khresvychaino vazhnuyu rol) in conducting American espionage and intelligence work. It should be pointed out here that the Jewish doctors' "plot" and the Joint's "espionage activities" were first announced on 13 January 1952, and Minayev's book, according to IZVESTIA, was published in 1952.

INDUSTRY

Reports on industrial failings are fragmentary, most of the radio discussion of that topic appearing in the political-vigilance context. There is some criticism of the operations of the light and consumer industries where mismanagement, corruption, theft and embezzlement are said to be still rampant. Plan-fulfillment figures in these industries are said to be particularly misleading since the totals do not reflect satisfactory performance of every aspect of the plan. A ZVYAZDA editorial broadcast from Minsk on 3 February says that last year a "considerable number of enterprises and even entire industries" of Belorussian SSR failed to complete their annual plan. The Republic's fishing industry, for example, has been lagging for years and shows no signs of improvement now:

The question arises: when will the leaders of
the fishing industry administration finally
overcome their lagging and fulfill the State
Plan?

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Similar production failures are attributed to the Belorussian Electric Power Administration and the Industrial Cooperatives Council which cater exclusively to the consumers. We must not be deceived by the glowing reports of the Ministries which have fulfilled and even overfulfilled their gross production plans. The paper reports that a number of them failed to complete the plan "according to specified items." Among them are the Ministries of light, building materials, food and local industries. Similar failures not reflected in the gross-production reports are said to have been registered in the production of tractors and automobiles, bricks and tiles, lime and woolen textiles.

The Kherson Oblast consumer industry is honeycombed with "swindlers and sharps" according to NADDNEPRIANSKA PRAVDA of 4 February. Socialist property is being stolen in such large enterprises as the "Main Textile Distribution Administration" (golovtextyl-sbut), the "Eighth of March" plant and the river port. The damages sustained through thievery by the Oblast Consumer Cooperative Administration last year alone amounted to over 1.2 million rubles. The oblast Party and Soviet officials, says the paper, "should have drawn suitable conclusions" from that and looked into the personnel problem. This, however, has not been done, and "incompetent and untrustworthy" officials, instead of being dismissed, are shifted from one responsible post to another. An interesting sidelight on the official attitude toward the consumer is provided by a STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA editorial of 6 February. Listing the activities of several officials of the oblast consumer industry who have been fleecing the consumers for a long time, the paper inveighs against their "dishonesty to the State" without even mentioning the consumers. Thus the director of the Kamyshin Meat Combine, for example, had "tried to transform that State enterprise into his own property" and systematically deceived the State and the Party by faking the combine's performance reports and otherwise engaging in "shady machinations." The head of the oblast "Gastronom" Bureau, Safonov, having surrounded himself with yes-men and "people of unclear conscience" (lyudi s nechistoy sovestyu), has been violating the retail trade regulations himself and protecting the violations of his subordinates by transferring them from one executive position to another. He, too, is referred to as a bad Communist who is "dishonest to the State and the Party."

In a long TRUD article published on 6 February, the acting chief of the Central Trade Union Housing Administration Bertasov unwittingly testifies to the extent of corruption in the retail trade industry by admitting that licensed "public inspectors" (obshchestvennie kontrolery) are frequently refused admission to the places they are to inspect. It is quite clear, he says, that these inspectors, whose duty it is to see that the customers are well treated, are "a thorn in the flesh" (belmo na glazu--literally, a mote in the eye) of unscrupulous officials who brook no interference in their favorite pastime of "cheating customers" (obman pokupateley). It has also been discovered, according to Bertasov, that where public inspectors cannot easily be kept out of stores and other retail trade enterprises, they are "reported" to their superiors in "anonymous slanderous letters" (anonimnye klevetnicheskije pisma) as taking bribes and committing a variety of other crimes in the hope of having them dismissed or "bringing them to terms" with the unscrupulous store managers and other officials.

Misleading total production figures are also the object of an editorial discussion by KOMMUNA broadcast from Voronezh on 5 February. Good industrial production indexes often "conceal straggling enterprises," says the paper, and Voronezh oblast is no exception: "Several plants of the oblast remain heavily indebted to the country." The building-materials industry failed to complete its 1952 plan, is "far behind" in its current program, and the plants of the butter industry trust (trest maslo-prom) are not producing the prescribed quantities of butter and other foodstuffs. "Solicitude" for the consumer is expressed in a broadcast from industrial Kemerovo of 3 February where the "acute shortage" (ostraya nekhvatka) of living space has been the target of criticism for a long time.

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Many building organizations are failing to fulfill the house-building plans every year Some enterprises of the oblast have slackened their attention toward improving the working and living conditions of the workers.

The communal enterprises such as public baths, laundry, transportation and electric supply in the workers' settlements are said to be functioning very unsatisfactorily. Interruptions in the water supply are frequent in Prokofyevsk, Kiselevsk, Lenin-Kuznetsky and other towns. The network of repair shops is far too inadequate to serve the people, the assortment of consumer goods produced by the local industry is limited and the quality "remains low" (ostayetsya nizkim). The oblast Party organizations, the report concludes, must put an end to the "harmful practice" of under-estimating the importance of the workers' material welfare and devote more time to the daily cultural and other requirements of the people. It is revealed that most of those officials seldom if ever visit workers' dormitories and other communal dwellings and are not even familiar with the conditions obtaining there: "you cannot learn much by sitting in an office."

PRAVDA refers editorially (7 February) to a collective letter from the workers of the Zarubino fishing trust, the largest in the Far East, to call attention to the "vicious methods" (porochnye metody) of administration employed by the USSR Fishing Industry. The letter, which was not broadcast, points out that structural defects are frequently found on the fishing vessels delivered by the Ministry, and repair materials for the fishing fleet are usually shipped by the Ministry when it is too late; that is, in the height of the fishing season. Serious shortcomings have been noted also in the oil industry, PRAVDA continues. The Ministry of that industry and its subordinate organizations "are insufficiently familiar with the situation on the spot" (nedostayet glubokogo znaniya polozheniya del na mestakh). This is particularly evident in Tatar ASSR where drilling operations are frequently and unaccountably delayed, and in Bashkir ASSR where "little interest is shown" (malo interesuyutsya) in improving the technical skill of the industry personnel. At the "Ukrvodstroy" (Ukrainian Waterway Construction), where valuable materials are poorly guarded, a group of squanderers and thieves have been operating and causing great losses. Tens of tons of petrol (desyatki tonn benzina) have been disappeared from one sector of that project, the Vasilievsky construction and assembly division. Another gang of swindlers (gruppa zhulikov) is said to have built a nest at the Krasno-Perekopsk sector and engage in squandering (razbazari-vanie) socialist property.

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